

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



August 18, 2006

This letter is about payments from your Social Security benefits for your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan premiums.

Dear Medicare Beneficiary:

Recently, an error occurred in Medicare computer systems that may have stopped withholding of your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan premium payments from your monthly Social Security benefits payment. If you recently received a refund check or additional money via direct deposit from the Social Security Administration that you did not expect to receive, then please read this important information below.

If the check or direct deposit payment was refunding Medicare Prescription Drug Plan premium payments, but you didn't ask to stop having premiums withheld from your monthly Social Security benefit payments, a computer error is the likely reason.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this causes you. We'd like you to know what we are doing to correct this problem:

First, you still have your Medicare drug coverage. Social Security has already paid your premium for this coverage.

Second, you should set aside the extra payment you received and not use it for other purposes.

Third, the extra payment you received must be returned. We will let you know soon about that process. Again, you do not need to do anything other than set the money aside.

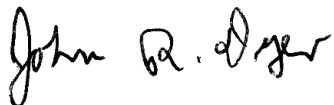
Fourth, Medicare is currently working to restart withholding premium payments from your monthly Social Security benefits payment as soon as possible. This premium withholding process cannot begin immediately, so the premium deduction will start again with your October Social Security payment. The monthly premium payments owed for October will start coming out of your monthly Social Security benefits payment.

In this or other matters, it's important to remember that Medicare will not contact you to ask for any personal information. If anyone contacts you asking for Social Security or banking information, don't give it out. Call 1-877-7SAFERX (1-877-772-3379).

If you have any questions about this letter, please call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and again please accept our apologies for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Dyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "D".

John R. Dyer
Chief Operating Officer
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Para obtener una copia de este aviso en español, llame GRATIS al 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 1-877-486-2048.